

U.S. SPACE BUDGET HIT BY FULBRIGHT

Senator Puts Domestic Needs Over Attempt To Probe Moon

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(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Nov. 19 — Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, launched an effort today to cut as much from the space program as the Senate slashed from his foreign aid bill.

Submitting an amendment to reduce the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget by \$519,000,000, Fulbright said the nation should abandon its attempt to send a man to the moon and back by the end of the decade.

It would be better, the Senator argued, to place higher priorities on such down-to-earth problems as education, unemployment, water pollution and slum clearance.

No Hesitation

Fulbright ironically noted that the Senate had no hesitation in cutting \$500,000,000 from the foreign aid bill, thus "emasculating" a program that the President and his top diplomatic and military advisers said was essential to the national security.

Therefore, the Senator remarked, "Congress should have no hesitancy, from the standpoint of security, in cutting back the crash program for a landing on the moon, which our defense experts assure us has little if any relevance to national defense."

He said he was not trying to kill the space program but merely to slow its pace so that a greater percentage of the nation's resources and technical manpower can be devoted to domestic needs.

17 Times Greater

Fulbright noted that the \$5,190,000,000 NASA budget recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee is 17 times greater than the allotment for urban renewal and 25 times greater than the amount to be spent on housing for the elderly.

With the \$20,000,000,000 that has been earmarked for the moon probe, the Senator continued, the nation could build ten new projects comparable to the Tennessee Valley Authority or meet its total elementary and secondary education needs for an entire year.

Senator Symington (D., Mo.) challenged Fulbright's figures by saying only 5 or 10 per cent of the \$20,000,000,000 figure is due strictly to the moon probe.

For Military Purposes

More than \$18,000,000,000 of the program, he said, would be necessary for military purposes even if the nation restricted itself to earth-orbiting programs.

When Symington said the Congress should "follow the orders" of President Kennedy, who has set a moon landing this decade as a national goal, Fulbright snapped back:

"Since when do we have any respect for the President? You (Symington) voted to reduce foreign aid."

And when Symington replied he had voted for the Senate's \$3,702,000,000 foreign aid authorization bill, Fulbright retorted:

"Yes, after cutting its guts out."

At Fulbright's behest, the Senate put off voting until tomorrow on a \$14,620,000,000 independent offices bill, of which the NASA allotment is the largest item.

The Arkansas Democrat received verbal support today from Senator Randolph (D., W.Va.), who pointed to unmet domestic needs, and Senator Clark (D., Pa.) who warned against a "Buck Rogers" mentality in the country.